

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 09544 210252Z

60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-08 SCI-06 CEQ-02 EPA-04 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 DRC-01 /079 W

----- 064453

R 201955Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9334

UNCLAS MEXICO 9544

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ERTD, SENV, PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: IMPACT OF TOURISM TO BAJA CALIFORNIA

REF: A) STATE 244838 B) MEXICO 9223 C) MEXICO 9224 D) STATE
244165 B) MEXICO A-634

1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF TOURISM TO BAJA CALIFORNIA, RAISED BY GOM REPS, WAS AMONG TOPICS DISCUSSED AT THE US/MEXICO MEETING OF EXPERTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ALONG THE BORDER, HELD IN MEXICO CITY DECEMBER 6-7, 1973. REFTEL B SUBMITTED THE TEXT OF CONCLUSIONS REACHED AT THAT SESSION AND REPORTED ON THE PROCEDURE AGREED UPON FOR ENSUING ACTION, TO WIT, FORMAL SUBMISSION OF CONCLUSIONS TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS BY GOM UNDERSECRETARIAT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT (SMA), TRANSMISSION OF SAME TO EMBASSY BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE, PRECISELY THE PROCEDURE PREFERRED BY DEPARTMENT. REFTEL C GAVE THE TEXT OF A PRESS RELEASE CONVERING THE MEETING AND PROVIDING BACKGROUND. REFTELS B, C. DESPATCHED BY EMBASSY DECEMBER 8 WELL BEFORE REF. A RECEIVED. MEXICO'S A-634 REF. E) GAVE DISCUSSION DETAILS.

2. BY REFTEL D THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZED THE EMBASSY TO SIGNIFY THE WILLINGNESS OF THE USG TO PROCEED UPON RECEIPT OF THE FONSEC NOTE. LATTER IS NOT EXPECTED UNTIL AFTER PRESENT GOM YEAR-END VACATIONS (DECEMBER 17-31).

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MEXICO 09544 210252Z

3. UNDER THE HEADING "SOLID WASTE" PARAGRAPH NUMBER 2 OF THE

CONCLUSIONS (REFTEL B) READS AS FOLLOWS: "EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION: UNITED STATES (READ EPA) WILL PROVIDE MEXICO INFORMATION AND WILL SEEK TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH CALIFORNIA'S ANTI-LITTER LEAGUE CAMPAIGN, IF DESIRED." EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT THE INFORMATION WILL BE FORWARDED BY EPA AUTOMATICALLY AND THAT JOINT MEETING WILL BE SET UP, IF GOM SO DESIRES. THUS A MODUS OPERANDI ALREADY EXISTS.

4. WITH REFERENCE TO EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW TO PROCEED, LATTER PRESUMES INTERIOR WILL WISH TO CONSULT WITH BOTH FITZHUGH GREEN, ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR OF EPA, CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING, AND MR. PAUL DE FALCO, ADMINISTRATOR, EPA REGION 6, SAN FRANCISCO, TELEPHONE (415) 556-2320, WHO IS CHARGE BAJA CALIFORNIA BORDER MATTERS. HE TOOK ACTIVE PART IN THE DISCUSSION OF TOPIC, WHICH INCLUDED CONSIDERATION OF JOINT EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN SO THAT AMERICAN TOURISTS MAY HAVE GUIDANCE AS TO HOW TO HANDLE THEIR SOLID WASTE.

5. SINCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT IN ALL OF MEXICO IS RESPONSIBILITY OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THROUGH SMA, AND THAT AGENCY HAS ALREADY BROACHED THE SUBJECT AT A MEETING IN WHICH FOREIGN SECRETARIAT WAS REPRESENTED, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT NO FURTHER INITIATIVE BY LOCAL BAJA CALIFORNIA OFFICIALS IS NECESSARY. THIS CAN BE VERIFIED BY CONSULTATION WITH SMA, WHICH EMBASSY HAS REFRAINED FROM DOING PURSUANT INSTRUCTIONS.

6. CORDIALITY AND MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT THERE ARE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS OF JOINT CONCERN WERE THE KEYNOTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETINGS. ACCORDINGLY, THE EMBASSY IS PLEASED THAT INTERIOR IS PREPARED TO OFFER THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DESCRIBED IN REFTEL A. EMBASSY CAUTIONS, HOWEVER, THAT PREVIOUS OFFERS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SEVERAL FIELDS HAVE NOT AUTOMATICALLY BEEN ACCEPTED.

7. BY THE SAME TOKEN, THE EMBASSY INVITES ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT AS A MATTER OF POLICY, WE SHOULD NOT ASSUME THAT THE EFFECT OF US TOURISTS IS DETRIMENTAL, AS STATED IN THE WORDING OF PARA 1, REFTEL A.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MEXICO 09544 210252Z

8. ACTION REQUESTED. PLEASE ADVISE RESULTS OF FURTHER EXPLORATION BY STATE/INTERIOR/EPA.
MCBRIDE

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NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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